

Pony express rider passing men setting telegraph poles for transcontinental telegraph line *p3/6*
Painting by W. H. Jackson, courtesy Utah State Historical Society



Rich County in the extreme northern end of Utah to St. George in the south. Men were called to work on the line without pay.

"Captain Horace D. Haight's ox train, consisting of 65 wagons, arrived at Salt Lake City in October, 1866, bringing enough telegraph wire and insulators for a line 500 miles long. The materials were paid for with money collected from the Utah people. By January of the following year, telegraph messages were sent from Salt Lake to St. George. I shall conclude my report," Ned stated, "by reading from a report made by A. Milton Munser, who was superintendent of the Deseret Telegraph Company:

"We have 600 miles of telegraph in Utah in operation and material has been ordered to extend the lines in different directions. The Territory of Utah is the only territory in the United States to own her own telegraph system."

was 'astonishing' and that the ticking of a watch sounded as loud as the ticking of a clock. These two telephones in Salt Lake were the first in Utah."

Telephone and switchboard in Ogden

"Early in 1879 Mr. Munser induced Mr. George A. Lowe, a merchant of Ogden, to install a private line telephone service between his home and store. By the next year several other private lines were installed. On March 1 the National Bell Telephone Company granted A. J. Pattison and associates, under the name of 'The Ogden Telephone Exchange Company,' the license to operate a telephone exchange in Ogden. It was opened on September 8, 1880, with 24 lines and 30 telephones. The Ogden exchange was the first telephone exchange in the Rocky Mountain states.